

Amended claims

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CLAIMS

1

Sub. Cl
Process for anticipating and/or preventing the risk of spontaneous ignition and/or explosion of an explosive atmosphere stored in a confined or semi-confined environment chosen from the group consisting of a grain silo, a center for storing coal dust, industrial dusts, animal or plant meals or fertilizers, driftways and fuel tanks optionally incorporated in a vehicle, in which the temperature of the mixture and any change over time are measured from the time of creation of said atmosphere, and the critical moment of spontaneous ignition and/or explosion of this mixture is determined by determining the induction time remaining to go, that is to say the time elapsed between the creation of said atmosphere and the critical moment beyond which there is a risk of said atmosphere spontaneously igniting and/or exploding.

2. Process according to Claim 1, characterized in that the fertilizers are chemical fertilizers or ammonium nitrates.

3. Process according to Claim 1, characterized in that the fuel tanks are tanks of hydrocarbons chosen from the group consisting of kerosene, petroleum spirit, methane, butane and propane.

4. Process according to Claim 1, characterized in that the hydrocarbon tank is a truck, aircraft or boat tank.

Sub. A3
5. Process according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that use is made of alarm means or means for preventing spontaneous ignition and/or explosion of said atmosphere when the time elapsed

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from the moment of creation of said atmosphere approaches the critical moment (τ_i) of spontaneous ignition.

6. Process according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the implementation of the alarm means and/or means for preventing spontaneous ignition and/or explosion of said atmosphere is engaged manually or automatically.

add B1

add ABSTRACT